

Attorney Docket No. 967/43620
PATENT

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#4/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HANS OETIKER AG et al.
Serial No.: PCT/EP/2003/14436
Filed: December 18, 2003
For: RETAINING CLAMP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

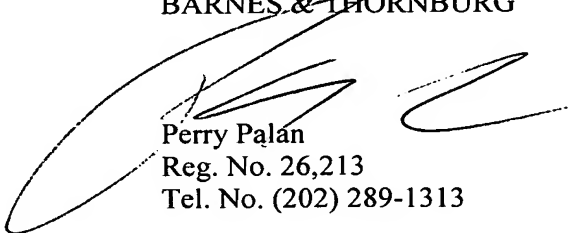
Please amend the subject application as shown in the attachments hereto. Please amend the claims as indicated, canceling Claims 1 through 11 and adding new claims 12 through 19. Also enclosed is an amended abstract which omits the reference numbers from the PCT abstract.

REMARKS

Examination of the subject application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG



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Enclosures

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